

A scenic view of a body of water, likely a lake, with a dense line of green trees in the middle ground. In the background, the Chicago skyline is visible under a hazy sky. In the foreground, there are tall green plants with clusters of small purple flowers. The text 'Chicago Wilderness' is overlaid in a large, white, serif font on the left side of the image.

Chicago Wilderness

Chicago Wilderness: A Metropolitan Alliance for the
Conservation of Nature

Cathy Geraghty, Forest Preserves of Cook County
and Chicago Wilderness

March 14, 2014





A close-up photograph of several purple thistle flowers in bloom, set against a blurred background of green foliage and more flowers. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

CELEBRATING 100 Years

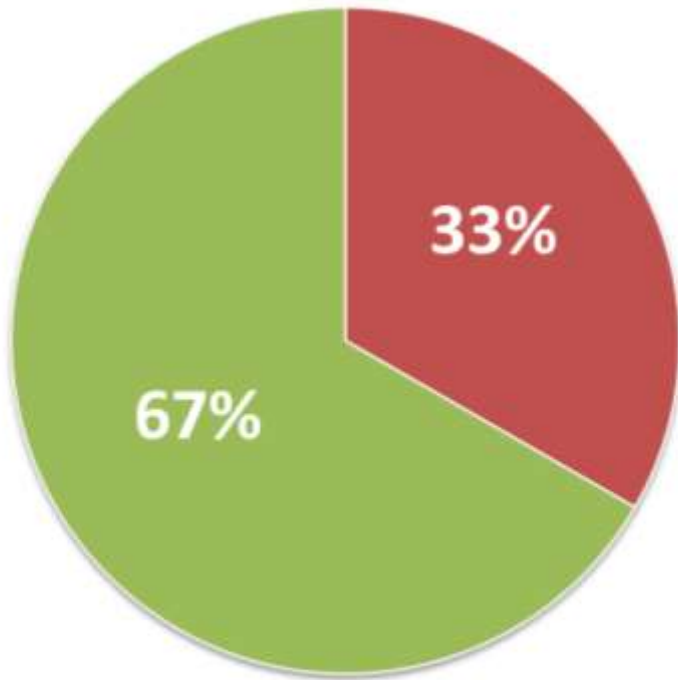
**The Forest Preserves of Cook County:
Experience the Wonders of Nature**

Toni Preckwinkle, President

Arnold Randall, General Superintendent

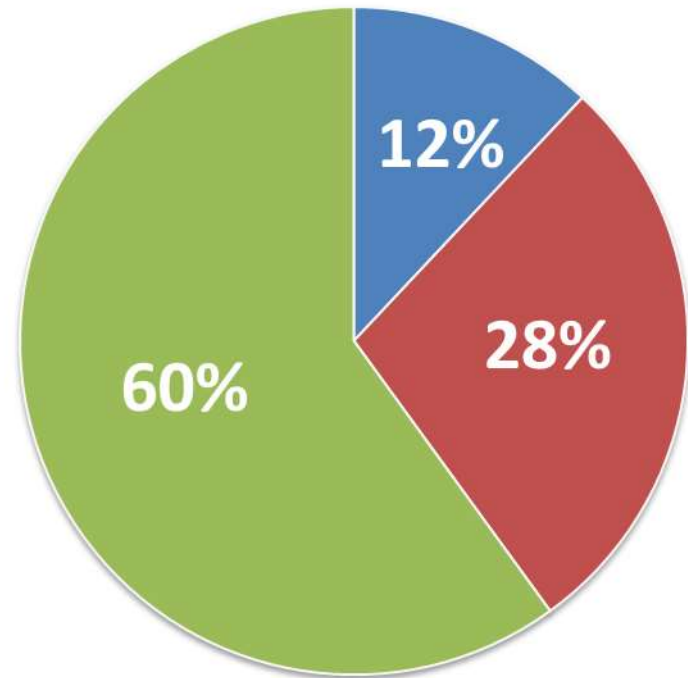


1996



- Government Entities
- Nongovernmental Organizations

2014



- Corporate Entities and Businesses
- Government Entities
- Nongovernmental Organizations

Chicago Wilderness

Chicago Wilderness Congress 2012: Shaping the Future of Regional Conservation

November 15, 2012
University of Illinois at Chicago Forum



Chicago Wilderness

Position Statement on Feral and Unfriendly

POSITION: Chicago Wilderness is a regional alliance of organizations that believe that people need to act to protect and improve the quality of life for all who live here, by protecting and managing the natural resources that people need to act. Chicago Wilderness members believe that people need to act to protect and improve the quality of life for all who live here, by protecting and managing the natural resources that people need to act.

Alliance members recognize that pets provide many benefits to humans. However, we also recognize that feral cats, and other animals, are a problem for many communities. Therefore, Chicago Wilderness supports efforts to encourage responsible pet ownership, and to manage feral cat colonies.

BACKGROUND: The domestic cat (*Felis catus*) originated in the Near East and is now considered a separate species. Domestic cats have increased to the point where they may be more than 140 million domestic cats estimated to be abandoned.

There is a strong consensus among wildlife professionals that feral cats negatively impact wildlife. A cat's instinctive behavior is to hunt and kill. Feral cats negatively impact wildlife by preying on native species, spreading diseases, and acting as vectors of diseases to humans, pets, and other animals. In addition to the negative impacts they have on wildlife, feral cats also pose risks to humans, pets, and other animals, such as collisions with vehicles, larger predators, and diseases.

Feral cats are a growing concern for communities. Feral cats often have high reproductive rates (TNR) programs. These programs often involve trapping, spaying or neutering, and releasing cats. However, people are providing feeding stations at the same time, which is providing food to the cats. This is a problem because feeding stations provide a source of food for the cats, which is a problem because feeding stations provide a source of food for the cats.

A growing body of literature has documented the negative impacts of feral cats on wildlife. A growing body of literature has documented the negative impacts of feral cats on wildlife.

- Most cats that are allowed to roam outdoors live up to 15 years.

Chicago Wilderness

Excellence In Ecological Restoration Program

2013

SELF ASSESSMENT MANUAL

Fire and Controlled Burning in the Chicago Region: A Model Policy for Chicago Wilderness

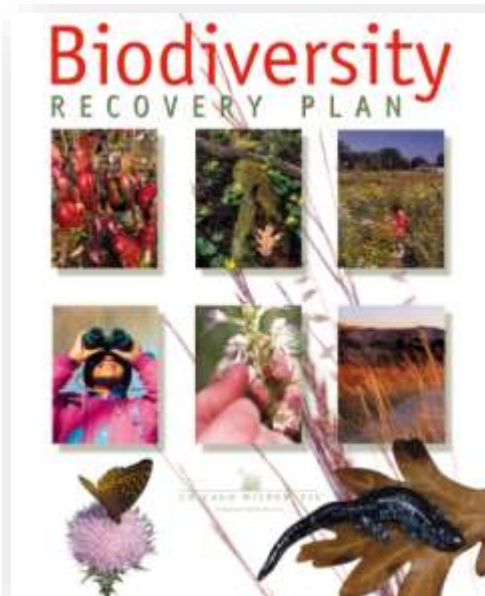
Chicago Wilderness is a regional alliance of organizations that believe that people need to act to protect and improve the quality of life for all who live here, by protecting and managing the natural resources that people need to act.

Chicago Wilderness is an alliance of more than 140 public and private organizations that believe that people need to act to protect and improve the quality of life for all who live here, by protecting and managing the natural resources that people need to act.

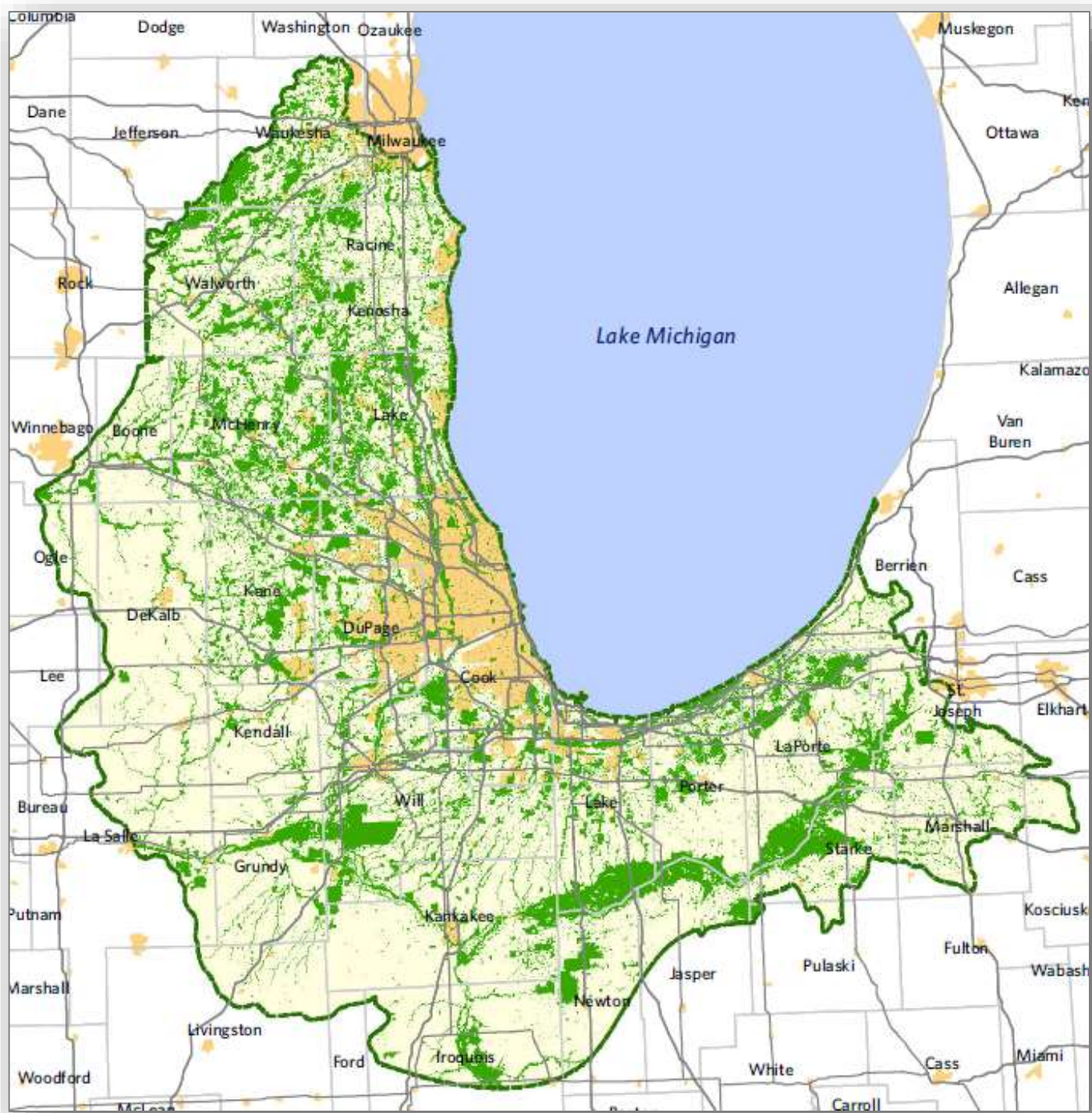
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Regional Plans



Chicago
Wilderness





October 2012



April 2013



**PUBLIC
COMMUNICATION**





METROPOLITAN GREENSPACES ALLIANCE

Chicago
Wilderness



SOUTHEASTERN
WISCONSIN
WATERSHEDS
TRUST, INC.



BAY AREA
OPEN SPACE COUNCIL

The Intertwine
Portland

Bay Area Open
Space Alliance

Amigos de los Rios
Los Angeles

Sweet Water
Milwaukee

Chicago
Wilderness

LEAP
Cleveland

Houston
Wilderness

METROPOLITAN GREENSPACES ALLIANCE

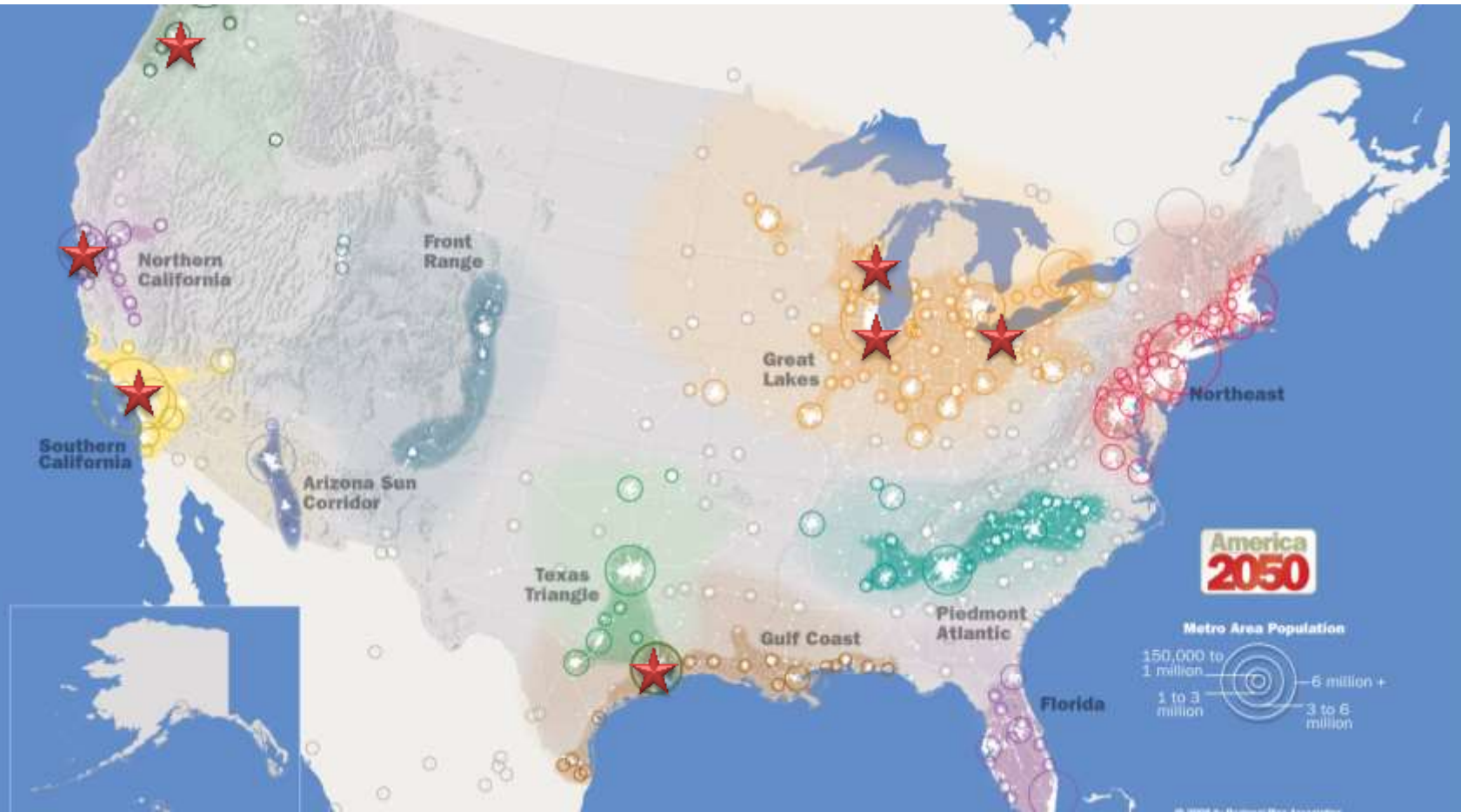
Chicago
Wilderness



SOUTHEASTERN
WISCONSIN
WATERSHEDS
TRUST, INC.



BAY AREA
OPEN SPACE COUNCIL



What Sustains Large Coalitions?

- Engaged leadership
- Collective ownership
- Clarity of mission
- Consensus decision making
- Alliance will not compete with its members
- Alliance attracts NEW resources



A landscape photograph of a wetland area at sunrise. The foreground is filled with green grass and white wildflowers. In the middle ground, there is a body of water reflecting the bright sun. A single tree stands on the horizon under a colorful sky. The text "Chicago Wilderness" is overlaid in the bottom right corner.

Chicago Wilderness